



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/492,728	01/27/2000	Rex A. Naden	73169-TS019	1299

7590 01/29/2003

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT  
1600 TYSONS BOULEVARD  
MC LEAN, VA 22102

EXAMINER

YENKE, BRIAN P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2614

DATE MAILED: 01/29/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/492,728		Applicant(s) NADEN, REX A.	
Examiner BRIAN P. YENKE		Art Unit 2614	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment.- See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 November 2002 .
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____  |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other:  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-29 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The term "high-speed RF" in claims 1-7, 10-12, 14-19 and 23-29 is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term "high-speed RF" is not defined by the claims, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. The applicant refers to the bottom of page 7 and ending on page 8, in the amendment to show support for the high-speed nature of the RF links. Page 10, refers to the Hyperlan standard which can provide maximum data rate in the range of 20-54 Mbits/sec as stated by applicant. The applicant also refers to connections using a local LAN, WAN, internet, Ethernet (wired or wireless) or an RF

link. The applicant also refers to a high-speed external network such as the internet.  
Thus the claimed "high-speed RF" limitation, in the claims is indefinite.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-29 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flohr,  
US 5,374,952.

In considering claim 1,

b) the claimed a first data appliance...is met by portable computer (2), which includes a modulator/demodulator 24 and a camera 36 included in video camera unit 11 to pick up the image of the conferee, where the computer receives and transmits information via CATV cable 18 and RF LAN cable 16, where an image received is displayed on screen 32 (Fig 1). Flohr discloses a system where a videoconferencing network can send/retrieve data to a single station in the local network without require a dedicated computer to manage the system.

However, Flohr does not specifically disclose a "projection system" or "projector". Flohr discloses a videoconferencing system which can transmit/receive data to include video locally or the conferees located outside the local network (i.e. outside world).

Art Unit: 2614

Flohr also discloses that other audio and video sources may be used in the conference system. Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify/utilize a projector/projection system, in the event each user did not have a display as does each personal computer, to thereby produce/provide the video for the conferees of the video conference.

In considering claims 2-3,

Flohr discloses a system where multiple personal computers (PC2...PCX) are connected via a wireless LAN and may communicate individually to one another or to multiple computers. Also as disclosed above, Flohrs invention was a modification in prior art, alleviating the need for a central dedicated computer to manage the system, therefore, the use of a central computer (i.e. projector) would have been an obvious embodiment to one of ordinary skill in the art.

In considering claims 4-5,

Flohr discloses a system where the personal computers (PC2...PCX) can communicate to the outside world, where server PC 1 can be utilized if desired to perform certain common functions which are not readily or efficiently implemented in each workstation PC2...PC, such as combining television images on a plurality of channels into a composite image for transmission (col 10, line 15-23). Each personal computer includes a modulating and demodulating circuit board 24 to convert to and from baseband video signals. Also when conferencing with the outside world and A/D,

Art Unit: 2614

D/A 28 and modulator/demodulator 24 are used to transmit and receive outside data/services.

In considering claims 6 and 11,

Flohr discloses that each workstation computer has a keyboard 46, processor 34, monitor 32, and a video camera unit 11, with camera 36, microphone 38 and speaker 40, where Flohr discloses receiving the compressed data and decompressing the compressed data via digital decoder 206 which decompresses the signal and separates the video and audio portions (col 18, line 43-52) for display.

However, Flohr remains silent on the use of a MUX. Flohr discloses a system where the signals sent out on the RF LAN are compressed (Fig 21), and the signals that are received by each personal computer (workstation) decompress the transmitted compressed image for display. Flohr discloses that computer circuitry or a video display processor is required to convert video signals into the standard or protocol required to operate the display (col 2, line 5-10).

The examiner takes "OFFICIAL NOTICE" in regards to a MUX (switch).

The use of multiplexers or switches are conventional in the art, where a system/controller is able to select an appropriate scheme/format based on the type of data signal used, and the type of operation that will be carried out (display, transmit/receive).

Therefore, it would have been clearly obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize a MUX (switch), with Flohr which discloses a transmitting/receiving and displaying an information signal which can be analog or digital, which conveys information such as

Art Unit: 2614

data or graphics, where the information signal may include a "data signal" and/or a television signal (col 2, line 11-17), in order to select the appropriate algorithm/scheme/format for display of the received data.

In considering claim 7,

Flohr discloses a system where the signals sent out on the RF LAN are compressed (Fig 21), and the signals that are received by each personal computer (workstation) decompress the transmitted compressed image for display.

In considering claim 8,

Flohr discloses receiving the compressed data and decompressing the compressed data via digital decoder 206 which decompresses the signal and separates the video and audio portions (col 18, line 43-52).

In considering claim 9,

Flohr discloses a system where the "information signal" is intended to mean any signal, analog or digital, which conveys information such as data or graphics. And also, Flohr discloses the information signal may include a "data signal" and/or a television signal (col 2, line 11-17).

In considering claim 10,

b) the claimed a first data appliance...is met by portable computer (2), which includes a modulator/demodulator 24 and a camera 36 included in video camera unit 11 to pick up the image of the conferee, where the computer receives and transmits information via

Art Unit: 2614

CATV cable 18 and RF LAN cable 16, where an image received is displayed on screen 32 (Fig 1). Flohr discloses a system where a videoconferencing network can send/retrieve data to a single station in the local network without require a dedicated computer to manage the system.

However, Flohr does not specifically disclose a "projection system" or "projector". Flohr discloses a videoconferencing system which can transmit/receive data to include video locally or the conferees located outside the local network (i.e. outside world). Flohr also discloses that other audio and video sources may be used in the conference system. Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify/utilize a projector/projection system, in the event each user did not have a display as does each personal computer, to thereby produce/provide the video for the video conference.

In considering claim 12,

Flohr discloses a system where the signals sent out on the RF LAN are compressed (Fig 21), and the signals that are received by each personal computer (workstation) decompress the transmitted compressed image for display.

In considering claim 13,

Flohr discloses receiving the compressed data and decompressing the compressed data via digital decoder 206 which decompresses the signal and separates the video and audio portions (col 18, line 43-52).

In considering claims 14-19,



• Art Unit: 2614

Flohr discloses a system where multiple workstations PC2... PCX (Fig 1) may transfer an information signal to multiple workstations or a selected workstation which are local conferees and also transfer an information signal to the outside world under control of server PC 1. Thus each workstation has an transmitter/receiver, which can receive/transmit an information signal to another/multiple workstations, or to the outside world (external network).

In considering claim 20,

Flohr discloses a system where the "information signal" is intended to mean any signal, analog or digital, which conveys information such as data or graphics. And also, Flohr discloses the information signal may include a "data signal" and/or a television signal (col 2, line 11-17).

In considering claim 21,

Flohr discloses a system where the signals sent out on the RF LAN are compressed (Fig 21), and the signals that are received by each personal computer (workstation) decompress the transmitted compressed image for display.

In considering claim 22,

Flohr discloses receiving the compressed data and decompressing the compressed data via digital decoder 206 which decompresses the signal and separates the video and audio portions (col 18, line 43-52).

In considering claims 23 and 26-27,

Flohr discloses transferring information signals to another computer or external network where the data messages sent by RF LAN of the first computer is sent via the

Art Unit: 2614

transmitter of the first computer to the controller/receiver of the appropriate workstation or to the external network under control of server PC 1.

In considering claims 24 and 28,

Flohr discloses transferring information signals to another computer or external network where the data messages sent by RF LAN of the first computer is sent via the transmitter of the first computer to the controller/receiver of the appropriate workstation or to the external network under control of server PC 1. Also, the first workstation can receive and transmit simultaneously (col 9, line 10-12), where another workstation (i.e. second computer) can transmit second control data to the receiver/controller of the first computer or another computer.

In considering claims 25 and 29,

Flohr discloses transferring information signals to another computer or external network where the data messages sent by RF LAN of the first computer is sent via the transmitter of the first computer to the controller/receiver of the appropriate workstation or to the external network under control of server PC 1.

### ***Conclusion***

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

• Art Unit: 2614

US 2001/0013890, Narayanaswami discloses a high speed communication link between a PDA (with a camera) and a personal computer (PC) using either wired or wireless connections.

US 5,864,708, Croft et al, discloses a wireless transceiver for a palm-top computer and a docking station, where the docking station includes various ports to receive/transmit information.

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

\*Art Unit: 2614

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian Yenke whose telephone number is (703) 305-9871. The examiner work schedule is Monday-Thursday, 0730-1830 hrs.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Supervisor, John W. Miller, can be reached at (703)305-4795.

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

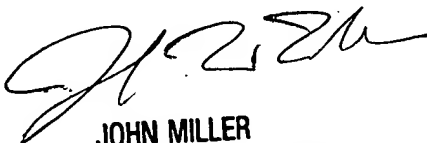
**or faxed to:**

**(703) 872-9314**

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist). Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

B.P.Y.

22 January 2003

  
JOHN MILLER  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600